Statement of Representative Tim Murphy
On behalf of H.R.__, the Environmental Restoration Act
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures
U.S. House of Representatives
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Chairman Neil, Ranking Member English, distinguished colleagues of the subcommittee, thank you for allowing me to speak before you today on behalf of my legislation, the Environmental Restoration Act. Please allow me to explain how this bill can be a key component of our national strategy to achieve energy independence.

This Congress has been keenly aware of our nation's need to produce more energy here at home. We import too much energy sources from the most volatile regimes on the globe; these dependent relationships compromise our long-term national security, economic security and energy security.

More than a century ago, the modern industrial world was literally built by Pittsburgh energy. Andrew Carnegie did not manufacture steel in Pittsburgh because the region had iron ore. Steel was made in Southwestern Pennsylvania because we had energy in the form of coal, and the water resources to transport it. To this day, Pittsburgh sits on a 250-year supply of coal—the Pittsburgh coal seam is one of the most valuable natural resource stockpiles in the entire world. As we seek to capitalize on domestic energy supplies, we must make coal; clean coal energy a big part of this equation.

Coal produces more than half of our domestic electricity—and this Congress has provided extensive funding for research and clean coal initiatives that will virtually

eliminate emissions in future plants. However, the coal mines of decades past did not emphasize clean air or water. One of the unfortunate legacies of the coal mining industry are mountains of waste coal, also known as "gob." In the past, mining technology was less sophisticated in separating out coal from other materials. These "gob" piles are a mixture of coal, clay, rocks, soil and other unusable raw materials. These massive piles can be seen in any mining state. They are unsightly and a source of pollution from their dust and acid mine runoff that pollutes our streams every time it rains.

However, the 1.1 billion tons of waste coal in the U.S. are a potential source of energy. By using waste coal as a fuel source in power plants, the existing waste coal sites can be reclaimed, the mine drainage associated with these sites ameliorated, and the mine lands ca be reclaimed for other uses. It is an expensive process, but creating energy out of waste coal has obvious benefits for cleaning up the environment while producing that energy.

Toward the objective of recycling more waste coal, the Environmental Restoration Act would encourage energy producers to address waste coal by providing a business tax credit for waste coal energy production. This year's bill would provide a tax credit to an energy producer of 51.7 cents per million BTUs of heat input from qualified waste coal recycling.

Simply put, the bill would provide an essential incentive for the private sector to overcome the financial cost of recycling waste coal and maximize its energy potential.

Mr. Chairman, I know you and Members of the subcommittee share my unequivocal goal of attaining energy independence based on cleaner, alternative sources of energy for America. In pursuit of that energy independence we need to conserve our energy use, diversify our energy sources, and explore new sources of energy. I believe the Environmental Restoration Act can be an indispensable part of such a strategy.

Thank you for allowing me this time today, and for your consideration of the Environmental Restoration Act. I look forward to continuing our cooperation to secure an energy independent future for our nation.